

09/869796

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Eric DEFRANCQ et al.

Application No.: 09/869,796

Filed: September 19, 2001

Docket No.: 110024

For: FUNCTIONALISED POLYNUCLEOTIDE COMPOUND, OPTIONALLY MARKED
AND METHOD FOR DETECTING A TARGET NUCLEIC ACID

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 4-6, 8-10, 16-18, 20-22, 24 and 26-27 as follows:

4/ (Amended) Compound according to claim 1, characterized in that L comprises at least eight atoms.

5/ (Amended) Compound according to claim 1, characterized in that L is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain, optionally interrupted by at least one function chosen from amine, amide and oxy functions.

6/ (Amended) Compound according to claim 1, characterized in that W corresponds to the general formula (II)